

ONGC Videsh Limited's ongoing exploration in off shore Vietnam. Transit halts were also made at London, Tokyo and Bangkok where discussions were held with Various oil companies who expressed a keen interest in participating in the Fourth round of bidding.

**Supply of Steel Scrap to Mini Steel Plants**

3577.

SHRIMATI

BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mini steel plants in the country are facing closure due to non-supply of steel scrap; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the supply of steel scrap to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Production in the mini steel plants will be affected to some extent due to the shortage of imported steel melting scrap.

(b) Import of steel melting scrap through the canalising agency, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MTSC), has reduced this year due to non-availability of adequate free foreign exchange. Efforts are being made to increase import of scrap through MSTC. The mini steel plants can also make imports directly through the use of Exim Scrips.

**Complaints from German Companies against Indian Firms**

3578. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from German companies/firms by the Indian

Embassy in Bonn against Indian entrepreneurs/Public sector undertakings etc;

(b) whether some Indian firms/corporations/companies have also sent legal notices to protect themselves without the Government's approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the bilateral trade relations are likely to be affected by such commercial complaints;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue amicably?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):**

(a) In 1991, 14 commercial complaints were received by the Indian Embassy in Bonn from German companies against Indian entrepreneurs/public sector undertakings etc.

(b) Government has no information in the matter.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) All commercial complaints received against Indian companies/public sector undertakings are invariably brought to the notice of the concerned Indian company as well as the Trade Disputes Cell of the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi, who deals with each case on the merits of issues involved under relevant rules and regulations.